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# HOW TO MAKE YOUR HOME GROUNDS BEAUTIFUL

Suggestions and Advice by

**THE AUSTIN NURSERY**

F. T. RAMSEY & SON - - - - - AUSTIN, TEXAS



To make your grounds attractive, you must use the trees and shrubs adapted to your soil and climate; then you must arrange them properly. Do you say you can not wait for such things to grow? You will be waiting any way, and the waiting is less irksome if you can see the things growing.

Such a mass as the above might consist of all or part of the following: Japan Ligustrum, Magnolia grandiflora, Acacia, Parkinsonia, Tamarix, Altheas, Crape Myrtle, Pomegranate, Cape Jasmine (for South), Amoore Privit, Elderberry, Leucophyllum, Japan Quince, Spirea, Malvaviscus, and others.



## *Make Your Home Grounds Beautiful*

Will you not take time to read this? It is worth your while. Look at the pictures, anyway. If you have not our catalog, ask for it. We feel that our fifty years' experience in the nursery business justifies us in saying that we know conditions in every section of the great Southwest, and the needs in varieties of fruit trees and ornamentals. Our recent several years of close study of the needs of Texas and the Southwest along the lines of more liberal and more harmonious planting of trees and plants for home grounds, as well as public grounds and parks, have impelled us to write this booklet.

We fully realize that in a short time, a few years at most, tremendous changes will occur; the profession of the Landscape Architect will be one of the most prominent in the country; home grounds will receive many times the attention they now receive, and this booklet will then seem but a small beginning in the development of proper landscape ideals.

Our main consideration has been to present the subject as fully as possible in this brief space, and to cling to correct ideals. We believe we have done so, and that not a single suggestion, if carried out, will lead to any planting that will need changing in the future.

In a spirit of helpfulness, therefore, besides the hope of benefitting ourselves in a financial way, we are

Yours for a More Beautiful Country,

THE AUSTIN NURSERY,

F. T. Ramsey & Son.



# **How to Make Your Home Grounds Beautiful**

**DOCTORS** write prescriptions and druggists fill them.

**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS** ought to write prescriptions or plans to cure the run-down or bare and bleak surroundings of the homes of our country for the nurserymen to fill.

**A GOOD LANDSCAPE MAN** must know all the nurseryman knows about the adaptability of different shrubs and trees to the different sections and locations, and in addition he must know the laws governing harmony in planting. Then if he is to plant in the more beautiful, informal, natural, modern way, he must be a born artist.



A mass of evergreens to "kill" the ground line, harsh corner, and glaring walls at our State University. Photo taken one year after planting. Everything furnished by our Nursery. Planting consists of Japan Ligustrum, Chinese, Golden, and Rosedale Arbor Vitae, Euonymus Japonica, and a few shrubs.

**HE MUST KNOW** the royal purple shades that the Rosedales assume in the winter, and how richly they blend with all shades of green; he must know which shrubs will thrive in the shade, which will rob the others, and which grow taller.

**THESE REQUIREMENTS** make good landscape men very scarce. They are so very scarce in our territory, the great Southwest, and the majority of our citizens are so utterly untaught about the beauties and benefits and value of properly and liberally planted home grounds, that we feel justified in issuing this booklet that tells how and what to plant.

**THE FIRST FORCE** that moves us is our love for that which the subject embraces. The **SECOND** is that we believe a majority of those who read will comprehend the truth of what we advocate, and their homes will be made more beautiful, while we shall sell more of the stock we have grown for that purpose.



Spireas (Bridal Wreath) make a mass of white in early spring. The view from this house surpasses the view toward it.

**HE WHO GOES PAST A HOUSE** surrounded by beautiful grounds will say to his friends: "There is culture and refinement in that home."

**YOU, READER,** whoever you are, can remember certain trees or shrubs about your childhood home as distinctly, and sometimes as fondly, as you do some of the members of the household. Will your children have similar memories?

**HOME BUILDERS** will spend fancy sums for articles that they use only occasionally, and that constantly deteriorate, and spend perhaps only one-tenth as much on beautifying the grounds around their homes.

**THEY WILL SPEND** hundreds of dollars for a piano, with which to please or gratify the sense of hearing. The sense of hearing soon becomes tired of sound, but one never tires of a beautiful landscape.

**THE BEAUTY AND UTILITY** of the plantings increase from year to year, greatly adding to the value of the home. You will have to buy a new piano after awhile, and repaper your rooms.



A good landscape man never allows the foundation to show. Any ordinary shrubs produce this effect. Clump of Pampas Grass shown in foreground.

**ANYBODY** can make flower beds in the shapes of diamonds, circles, etc., but **NATURE** never arranges her plantings that way.

**IF YOU WANT THE MOST BEAUTIFUL EFFECTS** and those of which you will never tire, you must avoid straight rows and formal, stiff beds.

**AVOID FORMALITY;** hardly allow three trees to be in a straight row, or the distance between any two trees to be the same as between any other two.



Observe the open lawn, and no straight rows or formal planting of the trees.

**IN PLANTING MASSES** place the taller growing trees in the rear, or if the planting is to be seen from both sides, plant them in the middle.

**BEAR IN MIND** the height which different shrubs and trees will attain, and plant so in after years the mass will taper down to the edge, finishing with small shrubs and permanent bulbs.



This beautiful grove of evergreens can be duplicated or surpassed by planting about four each of Bonito, Golden, and Chinese Arbor Vitae, Ramsey's Pyramidal and Horizontal Hybrids, Rosedale Arbor Vitae No. 1 and No. 2.

**PLANT ONE GROUP** of stately growing evergreens, like our Horizontal and Pyramidal Hybrids, and give them sufficient room to grow in their naturally beautiful outlines.

**HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED THE SKYLINE** in the forest? It alone is a study. A good planter plants with the future skyline in his mind.

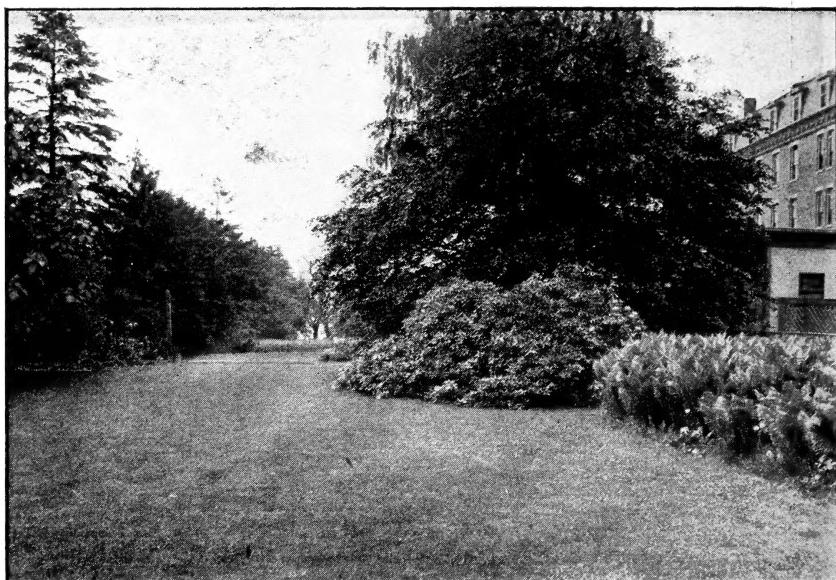
**WE CHALLENGE** all persons to name another way in which they can spend money that will bring such lasting pleasure, and add so much beauty, comfort and value to their homes, as when spent for hardy ornamental trees and shrubs suited to the soil and climate, and then properly grouped.

**IT PAYS.** A hundred dollars worth of shrubs, evergreens and trees planted around a home will make it sell for five hundred dollars more in one or two years, and a thousand dol-

lars more in ten years. We have searched the world for the best real hardy things that will stand our climate and live a long time.

**MANY YARDS NEED GRADING** and terracing. The subject is too much for this booklet.

**A CURVE** in a walk or a driveway adds beauty if there is a reason or an object to go around, but it takes a genius to make a **MADE** object seem natural.



An Elm, eight or ten evergreens, a dozen shrubs, some bulbs, and native ferns give this effect. A fine way to plant a vacant lot to make it sell quickly.

**WHEN YOU SEE** one or two lone and lonesome evergreens, you think of a cemetery. When you drive by or through a cedar brake or an evergreen grove of any kind, you revel in the view of its comfortable **GRANDEUR**. It can be duplicated, yes, surpassed, in your back yard.

**BACKYARDS!** Many of the most refined and progressive families are growing their most gorgeous groups of flowers and trees in them.



Everything in this delightful side yard is cheap. A good part is made up of cheap annuals grown from seed.

The two tall trees at gateway are Lombardy Poplar. Ramsey Hybrid would be superior.

Other good things for this yard are Hardy Palms (south of 31st parallel), Bonito and Rosedale Arbor Vitae, Sumach, Pavonia, Leucophyllum, and Malvaviscus.

**IN THEIR INFLUENCE** for good, a bed of flowers, or a wild-like mass of gold and green and red autumn leaves is equal to a sermon. Plant Spanish Oaks and different kinds of Sumachs for autumn foliage.

**SATISFACTION HAS A VALUE.** Get in the habit of keeping a few flowers always in sight. There is still more satisfaction in giving them to the many who appreciate them, but have none.

**ROSES OUTDOORS**, if kept growing, bloom from April until November or December. Perhaps there is no country with a better assortment of successful shrubs that bloom frequently or all the time during the growing season.

**PALMS OUTDOORS** are proving very satisfactory. Until three years old, and occasionally thereafter, the tops may freeze off, but they reach the climax of their perfection with large fresh leaves in a few weeks in the spring.

**IT IS A PLEASURE** to know how the Commissioners' Courts of some counties are making attractive little parks of the Courthouse Squares. They realize that if cities and towns are justified in making parks, the county should make one.



Only a few dollars' worth of nursery trees added to the natives made this driveway so enticing.

**DO NOT HESITATE** to write us freely for suggestions about what and how to plant and prices. We gladly answer all enquiries.

If you wish a drawing with details, see our offer on page 16.



A dozen or more mixed trees, a few climbing roses, fifty Shasta Daisies, and some Bermuda Grass give this effect.



This drive is easily duplicated with an assortment of trees and shrubs, including Lombardy Poplar, unpruned Japan Ligustrum, Amoor Privit, Althea, Crape Myrtle, Cape Jasmine (for the South), Malvaviscus, Parkinsonia, Sumach, Elderberry, Red Yucca, Tamarix, Pomegranates, etc.



Showing a residence one year after trees were planted.



The same residence a few years later. The Horizontal Cypress in the background are thirty feet tall. The house is entirely protected from the north and northwest winds.



Digging Japan Ligustrums. The patch is a mass of luxuriant green all year. Bonito and Pyramidal Arbor Vitae on the right.



**LIGUSTRUM JAPONICUM** (Japan Privet). This is the smooth-leaf evergreen shown so beautifully on the plazas in San Antonio and along the drive in front of our Capitol.

The first that were brought from Japan to Western Mexico are now four feet in diameter, with tops 120 feet across. No tree has ever grown faster in public favor, and it is worthy of it. Bright green winter and summer, with black berries at Christmas. They can be pruned to a straight stem or left bushy for massing and for screens.

**RECENTLY WE WERE REQUESTED** by Texas Farm and Ranch to write an article on this subject. From the number of letters received, we feel it was not only appreciated, but was of real benefit—a spark that fired many a half smothered desire.

We give it here, hoping it will impress some points that must be observed if one gets the most and best possible out of Home Grounds, for the expense and labor expended. (See next page.)

# *Beautifying Home Grounds*

By F. T. RAMSEY

Three-fourths or more of all the things that are planted around a home should be back of a line running right and left across the place opposite the front of the porch or entrance. If, however, a house were facing the north, I would put a massed planting extending around past the northwest.

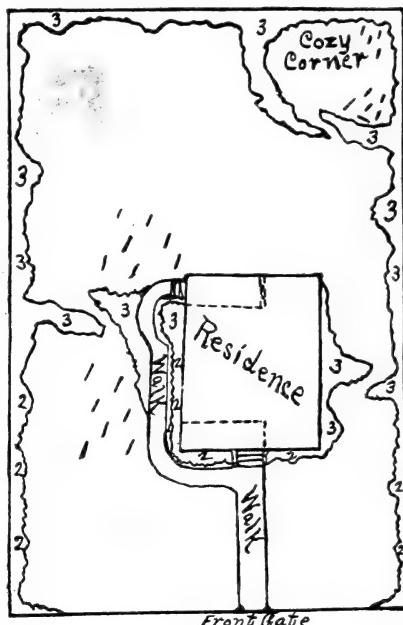
In arranging one's grounds there are a thousand minor rules that should be observed, but there are a few principal ones which, if observed, will at least prevent regrets or the necessity of moving some of the plantings in after years when the planter has a more cultivated taste or more knowledge about such matters.

Plant a border of densely thick shrubs, evergreens and trees around the margin of your back yard. When you get opposite the house extend a peninsular-shaped planting out toward the house and another from the house, letting them pass by each other a few feet, leaving a passageway between them, and yet one can not see much of the back yard from the front. Where the view through this opening strikes the back margin plant freely of bright colored bulbs and shrubs and annual flowers.

Roses and shrubs and annuals may be extended down the right and left sides of the front yard to the front line, but they should not be in a straight row. Set in groups or masses. Remember that nature never plants in straight rows or in geometrical designs or beds and aside from a row of shades outside on street or road, do not plant anything in straight rows.

One should never be able to see where the foundation of the house meets the ground; cover it with some small, hardy shrubs or annuals, but aside from this and an occasional screen-like mass near the porch, there should be nothing but grass between the house and the front fence, or hedge or terrace. Some few places do admit of one or two shades close to the gate or entrance.

In two of the corners of the back yard plant a shade, or, if the size admits, a group of several, and one such should be in the front yard also (see Figures 1 on sketch).



Design for home grounds: (1) shade trees; (2) mass of roses or small shrubs; (3) larger shrubs, evergreens, trees—many sorts.

In planting the informal, easy, restful masses, put three or more of a kind together, and you can mix evergreens and deciduous trees or shrubs, always putting the smaller growers in front, and here and there, along the edge, plant a dozen or so hardy bulbs like Amaryllis, day lilies, rain lilies, angel lilies and some cannas.

Somewhere near the chicken house or roost be sure to plant a little grove of some cheap evergreen, preferably Chinese Arbor Vitae or a mixture of several kinds. Chickens will run to these and feel safe at all times. It keeps them warm in winter and shades them in summer. It pays to be merciful. Then plant a double row on the north side of your barn or barn lot.

In planting around your house, do not be afraid to use freely of the

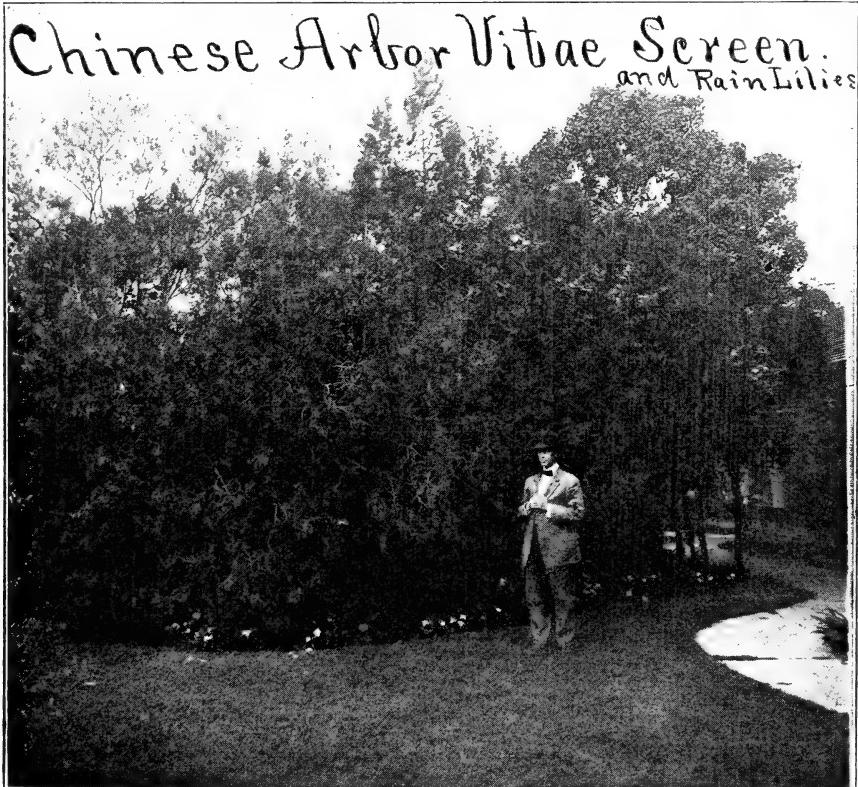
shrubs and trees that are native in many sections of the State. Excepting a heavy background of Chinese Arbor Vitae and Japanese Ligustrums on my own grounds, 70 per cent of all the shrubs, etc., are natives of Texas. Our natives are not half appreciated. Different from Uncle Remus, who was always "mighty po'ly," these shrubs are always well, and live forever. Our drouths will stop their blooming, but a little water or rain soon covers them with flowers, and most of them grow in the shade if wanted in such locations. Some of my favorites are Malvaviscus, Pavonia and Leucophyllum.

You want to know some good things to plant for best effect in massing? For the foundation or background use principally Chinese Arbor Vitae and Japan Ligustrums, and then add Altheas, Crape Myrtles, Bonito Arbor Vitae, Pyramidal Cy-

press or its pyramidal cross with Arbor Vitae (Ramsey's Hybrid), Euonymous, Mountain Laurel, Amoor Privet, Pomegranates, Sumach, Red Yucca (Hesperaloe), the three natives named above and then a lot of Tamarix of the three new sorts, two of which are everbloomers and one has plumes like an ostrich. They are the most valuable new additions to the good things for Texas or any other place.

The first thing to remember is this: You must make your house appear as if it were built on a little clearing in the front side of the most luxuriant and brightest colored little grove that ever grew. Let the house be a picture and the shrubs and grass the frame, the background and the foreground. Make one grand, harmonious view of the whole place. Do not "show off" single specimens.

But the main thing that stands in



**CHINESE ARBOR VITAE.** Fast grower; always green; good for single specimens or for screens and windbreaks.

the way of more beautiful, more cultured looking, more comfortable and more valuable homes everywhere, in both country and town, is poverty and stinginess—the latter largely; but it exists because so few have been taught the beauty of correct and liberal planting, and the great value it adds to a home. They must be taught that if they want the surroundings to be in beautiful harmony with other things in and out of the house they must spend fifties and hundreds of dollars where they have been spending about a dollar and 75 cents.

I recall a home I stopped at incidentally last year, out West. The man had just spent \$500 for a piano and was spending \$700 for new wallpaper, including some slight repairs, and he had spent less than four dollars for everything for the yard. He expected two lonely little evergreens

to break the freezing northers off of his yard that contained an even acre. Few will see the wallpaper. One hundred or two hundred of those dollars properly spent on the yard would have added as many thousands to its selling price in ten or fifteen years, and he would have enjoyed it all the time. I have mentioned this man once or twice before, and I remind myself of one of my kind of preachers I used to know, who took a different text each Sunday, but always preached the same sermon; but hoping the stingy, stringy planting in front yards will be changed to masses of luxuriance in which the birds may come for protecting warmth in the winter and to nest and sing in the summer, I offer this my prayer to the people who think and to the people who love beautiful little landscapes.

#### RAMSEY PYRAMIDAL HYBRID.

(Subject to Trade Mark.)

This most exquisitely beautiful evergreen originated on our own place from seed of Chinese Arbor Vitae, but has the form and foliage of a Pyramidal Cypress. As some Italian Cypress stood near where the seed were gathered, it is certainly a cross between them.

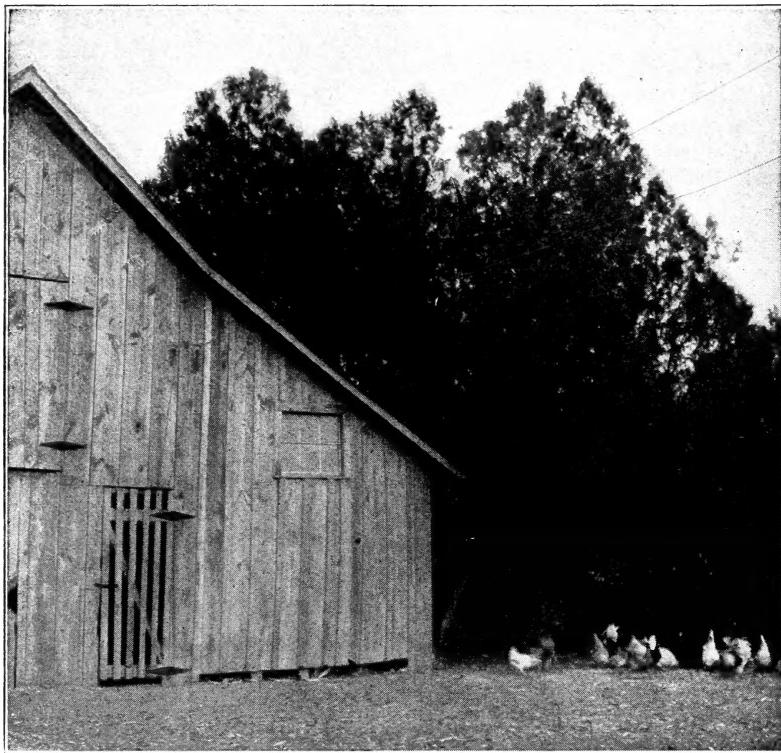
It is always a bright green and is a striking object of beauty on any landscape. One was never known to die in being transplanted. A row of them makes a perfect screen and windbreak. Such names as Beauty-green and Gracegreen have been appropriately suggested for it.

#### RAMSEY'S HORIZONTAL HYBRID.

(Subject to Trade Mark.)

Originated with us from seed of Horizontal Cypress, which it resembles in outline, but showing to be a cross with Arbor Vitae. It has a majesty and grandeur not found in any other similar tree that thrives in our climate. This is the first time it has been listed. Price, same as for Pyramidal Hybrid.





Plant some cheap Chinese Arbor Vitae for your chickens. They are warm in winter and cool in summer. Also plant them for a windbreak around the barn and barn lot. This planting answers for both.

**ARBOR VITAE TOWARD THE PLAINS.**—The letters on page 17 speak so definitely of the adaptability of Arbor Vitae toward the Coast, that you may suppose they are not so well suited to the upper ranges of our State. They do better, if possible, up that way. The finest specimen we have ever seen is growing in San Angelo.

A hedge of Arbor Vitae ten feet high will more completely break the wind than a solid board fence. This has been proven. A small windmill will run when placed behind the board fence at various distances, but will not turn when placed behind the hedge.

*No replacement, except at Full Price  
no agreement to accept countermand  
stock sold after April 1, 1912.*

**IF YOU WISH US TO DRAW PLANS** for your grounds, enclose \$5.00, if not for over 100 feet frontage. If for over 100 feet frontage, and with more detailed drawing, enclose \$10.00. Should you buy the nursery stock from us necessary for the work, this payment will be credited on the bill. We charge the price whether you use the plans or not.

Should you wish us personally to visit the grounds and make plans and give special advice (which is always better), we charge extra the expenses of the trip, and these expenses will not be deducted from the bill. We can sometimes send one of our experienced men, at a reasonable price, to superintend the planting, and while we guarantee stock to arrive in good condition, we do not guarantee it to live. We replace anything that dies the first year after planting at half of catalog price.

**IN ASKING FOR PLANS** draw plat of grounds, giving dimensions in feet, and also show house, barn, outhouses, and other objects and trees. Give points of the compass and indicate any principal views you wish left open.

**FRUIT TREES AND BERRIES** can often be used even on small places. We think we have the best assortment on earth for the Southwest.

**OUR GENERAL CATALOG** gives prices on everything and information about varieties, planting, watering and pruning.

**WE PAY EXPRESS** on orders for \$3.00 or more in Texas, and for \$5.00 in the United States.

**FOR STOCK IN LARGE QUANTITIES** we are able to make liberal discounts.

**WE SOLICIT ENQUIRIES** for large commercial orchards. Our new Texas varieties are money makers.

**GRAFTED PECANS** of the big, thin-shell, sure-bearing varieties can, on many locations, be planted for shades.

**YOU CAN MAKE** your own plan for your grounds, perhaps, by studying this booklet. If you send plan to us, we make no charge for list to fill it.

Houston, Texas, October 26, 1911.

Mr. F. T. Ramsey, Austin, Texas.

Dear Sir: I have your favor of the 24th inst., and I am glad that you are interested in the Chinese Arbor Vitae as a windbreak and screen. I have been advocating the planting of windbreaks throughout South Texas. For a number of years some of the growers disagreed with me, but the freeze of last January and February brought them all over to my view. Mr. E. S. Stockwell at Alvin has a row of the Chinese Arbor Vitae, which he exhibits to everyone that visits his place as a splendid windbreak plant. It is a fast grower in South Texas, and as a windbreak is one of the most perfect that we can plant.

Some varieties of the Salt Cedar also make a splendid low wind-break. It is a rapid grower and becomes compact, but it is not an evergreen and can not perform the same service that the Chinese Arbor Vitae performs, but; nevertheless, is well worth trying and planting.

The question of windbreaks is a serious problem for the South Texas orange grower, and I am of the opinion that within a few years every man who plants an orange grove will plant windbreaks throughout his grove for the protection of his trees, both from the high south winds and also the northwest winds that prevail during our cold northerns.

The Arbor Vitae is no host for injurious insect pests that are dangerous to the orange industry, and there will be no objection to them from this point of view.

Respectfully,

SAM H. DIXON,  
Editor Texas Farm and Fireside.

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CROSS S FARMING CO.

Crystal City, Texas, November 2, 1911.

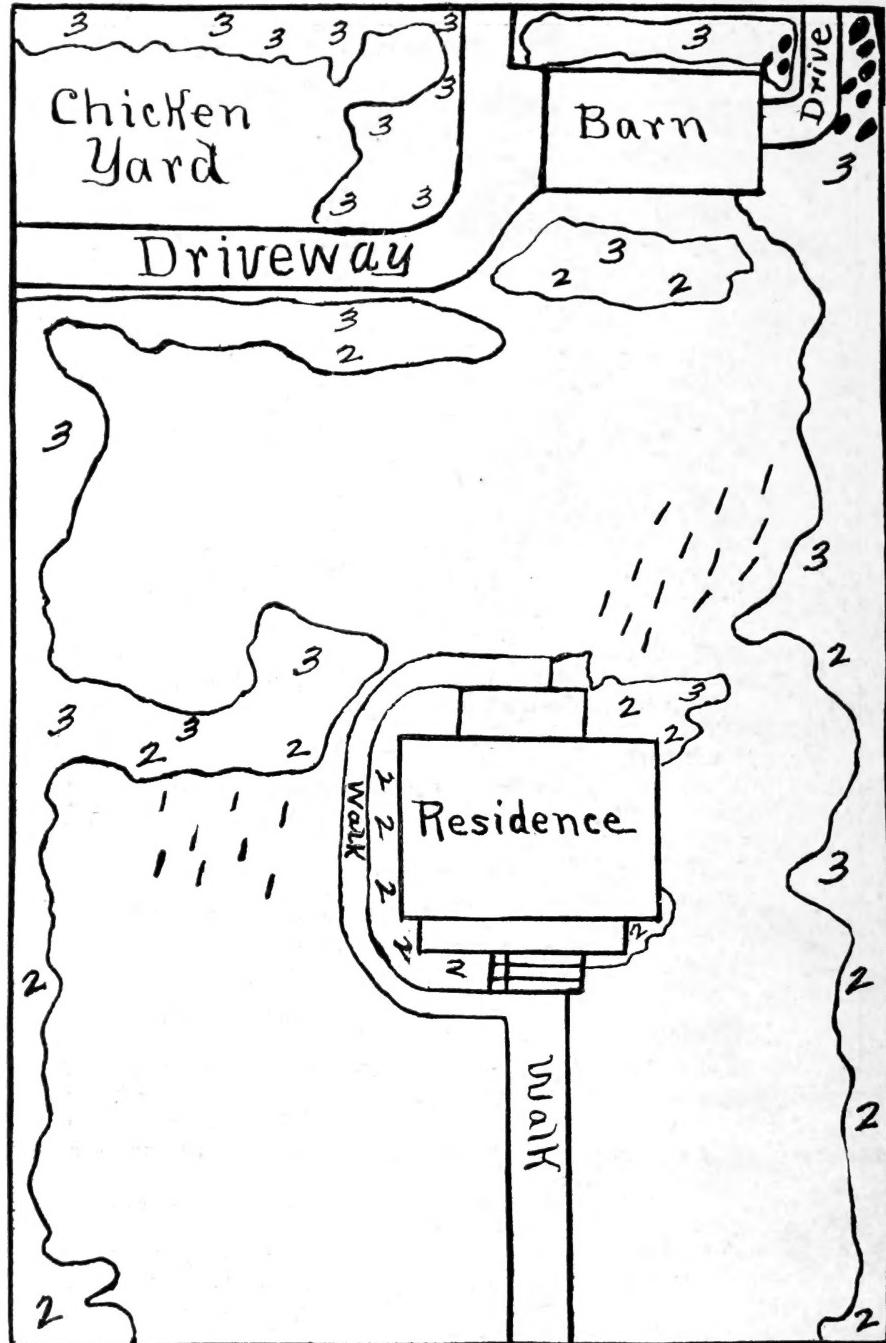
F. T. Ramsey & Son, Austin, Texas.

Gentlemen: Referring to your inquiry about the usefulness of the Chinese Arbor Vitae for hedges and windbreaks in the Coast country, will say that I believe that the use of this evergreen for that purpose is about as free from serious objections as any evergreen that can be recommended.

They are so well suited to the Coast district, and grow so rapidly, that I consider them extremely valuable for that purpose. My opinion is based upon personal experience with them in the Coast district. They are not only a long-lived tree, but also add beauty and harmony, as a hedge or windbreak, to any property on which they may be used for that purpose.

Yours very truly,

FRED W. MALLY.



PLAN FOR HOME GROUNDS.

1, shades. 2, small shrubs. 3, tall growing evergreens and trees.

This illustrates the beauty of a continuous planting around the yard. Plant masses of almost everything behind the irregular lines, using largely of Japan Ligustrums and other large evergreens in rear, and smaller shrubs in front.

The driveways and location of barn or garage are indicated merely in a general way, and this plan is intended to suit almost any arrangement.